

CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY
State of Arizona
808 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

To: County Directors
From: George B. Owen

Subject: Operation Beware
Date: May 22, 1953

At the Far Western Association of State Civil Defense Directors Meeting in Salt Lake City the final planning for having a test exercise on June 20 was completed.

The exercise will run between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. on June 20, a Saturday. Participating will be the civil defense agencies of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Nevada, and Arizona, the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii, and the Provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, Canada. Never before has an alert of this extent been attempted. Also participating will be the Regional FCDA offices at Berkeley and Seattle in order to coordinate, and possibly included will be a nationwide FCDA communications system cooperation which would make it nationwide -- in fact, international -- in scope.

The preliminary incidents to kick off the alert have been agreed upon for each State and now it is up to each State to figure out the incidents that they feel would occur within their State area. Official scenario is attached.

Colonel Harvey is heading up the Alert for the Far Western Association and also for the State of Arizona. He has asked that each County Director do these two things:

1. Turn in to him just as soon as possible the various incidents that you feel would occur in your area in connection with enemy attack. Outline what you think would happen from the standpoint of a "movement of people" and also any bombing that might occur, and any sabotage incidents that might happen. Include breakdowns in your traffic, police, fire, health, and other programs that you would like to have brought in to retrospect. These will then be worked up and timed and returned to you for handling either by "meeting of the minds of your staff" or actually moving people, the results to be returned to this office for assembly after you have handled the incident on June 20. The idea is to get all of your staff people thinking about what they are going to cope with if this emergency occurs, then have a dry run using your ingenuity to figure out what you would actually do if it were the real thing, and then

report in your success or failure for assembly into a critique report on results. Play this realistically as though it were the ACTUAL THING and be honest about your limitations so that you can face up to what you will have to do to bring your organization into a position that could actually handle a situation. Bear in mind that we are setting up our civil defense program on the basis that we will "PLAY FOR KEEPS". We hope we never have to but if we do, we want to be sure that we have the necessary to take care of our Arizona citizens.

2. Please send in the names and call letters of the amateur radio operators that will handle your messages. Colonel Harvey will need to assemble this information to turn it in to central control and as soon as possible.

The Far Western Association and its members, including you, have stuck their neck out in setting up an alert of this size. We feel that it is necessary that we find out for better or worse where we stand and let the chips fall as they may. This is too serious a matter to not do our best and find out where we actually do stand.

The general consensus of the international situation was emphasized by Governor Howard Pyle upon his return from conference with President Eisenhower and the various state governors. In speaking to the Arizona Municipal League he made a statement as follows:

"The gravity of the international situation was brought out and to such an extent that if we are to escape a world war in the next five years, it will be by divine intervention."

That does not mean that our country will be attacked in case there is a world war but if we have a strong civil defense organization in America, we will do two things:

1. Take care of ourselves if we are attacked.
2. Be so strong in America that an aggressor nation could see our morale would not be knocked out and for that reason, the gamble of an attack would not be worth while.

The motto of Armed Forces Week "Power for Peace" is excellent. So is our motto for the June 20 Alert: "Operation Beware".